

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 743

By McCord

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John DeLozier Widner of Alcoa.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Alcoa Vice Mayor John DeLozier Widner; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Widner was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Widner served with acumen and alacrity as the Vice Mayor of the town of Alcoa, but prior to that service, he was the Branch Administrative Manager with Burroughs Corporation, where he faithfully served until his retirement in 1985, earning the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, he was a 1942 graduate of Everett High School and earned his Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a man never to shrink from serving his fellow man and his country, Mr. Widner was a veteran of World War II; as a member of the infantry division, he received a purple heart when he was critically wounded in France when struck by shrapnel that went through his body. He was subsequently listed as 100 percent disabled when discharged, but was successfully employed with Burroughs Corporation, where he served until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, active within the community, he had served on the Alcoa City Commission since 1985 and was a member of the Blount County Cable Authority. He enjoyed his 19-year membership in the Alcoa Kiwanis, and for 20 years, he coached the Alcoa Little League teams, shaping the young lives that he worked with each summer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Widner also was an avid fan of UT and Alcoa High School football and basketball; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Widner was an active and devout member of the Alcoa First United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a 30-year member of the Chancel Choir, and he also lent valuable service as a member of the Administrative Board, as the Church Treasurer, as Co-Chairman of the Saturday Morning Prayer Group and on the Wesley Foundation Board; and

WHEREAS, John Widner was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Widner enjoyed the loving companionship of Nelle Ousley Widner and was the proud parent of Stephen Widner of Alcoa, David Widner and wife Lesa of Sammamish, Washington, and Beth Widner Jackson and husband Bryan of Athens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. John D. Widner leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors. He was known as a friendly and outgoing person and helped many people without their knowledge. He was always ready to listen to the complaints of residents while serving the city of Alcoa; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mr. John D. Widner, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction. His many contributions of time, energy, and expertise to the community of Alcoa, to his Church, his civic club, and to this State will be sorely missed by all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. John DeLozier Widner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.